# National Intelligencer. Weekly

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Weekly National Intelligencer.

BY GALES & SEATON. JAMES C. WELLING, ASSOCIATE EDITOR. The subscription price of this paper for a year is Two DOLLARS, payable in advance.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1864.

SUBSISTENCE OF THE ANCIENT ARMIES. We received two or three days ago, through the Post Office, the following inquiry from a soldier in

the Army of the Potomac : CULPEPER, (VA.) MARCH 7, 1864. CULPEPER, (VA.) MARCH 7, 1864.

To the Editors of the National Intelligencer.

GENTLEMEN Some time since I inquired of the ...,
thinking it the soldier's friend, "How the armies of the
ancients were subsisted; for instance those of Hannibal
and Xerxon!" I have not heard from it. Will you be so

We suppose it was not convenient for the journal to which our correspondent first addressed his inquiry to give him the information he solicited. Indeed the knowledge of facts relating to the topic he indicates does not lie on the surface of ancient history, but must be eviscerated from its body by a careful study of the classical records. So true is this statement that an authority usually so accurate and well-informed as Col. Graham, of been collected from the vast extent of Asia and no the British army, in his excellent "History of inconsiderable portion of Europe also." the Progress of the Art of War," dismisses all inquiry under this head by simply averring that "the system adopted by the ancients to provision their armies is to us a mystery." The remark is more sweeping than exact, as we think it will be easy to show by a brief reference to the sources of information which Col. Graham seems to have neglected altogether or which he failed to consult with diligence and discrimination. And in directing our inquiry to an examination of the means by which Xerxes and Hannibal subsisted their respective armies we shall not only soswer the same time address ourselves to the most diffilifted the "mystery" that broods over the subject

the outset some of the difficulties which attend depot of supplies for the expedition. this inquiry, we may premise by reminding the reader of the small consumption to cient soldier was habituated, as compared with the mark be applied to the soldiers of Xerxes. "An Asiatic soldier." says Grote, "will at this day make his campaign upon scanty fare, and under privations which would be intolerable to an Euro pean." Bernier, who followed the march of Aurungaebe from Delhi, in the year 1665, says that some estimated the number of persons in his cited by Grote, explains the subsistence of the enormous host of Genghis Khan by the remark that "the men are so temperate that they accomwas doubtless equally true in the day of Xerxes, and the same may be predicated of the Carthaginian soldiery in the time of Hannibal. Indeed the observation may be extended with little modification to the whole military system of the ancient world, including that of Greece and Rome.

the ancients.

And, then, the material of war was in ancient times much more easy of transportation than that which impedes the march and augments the difficulty of provisioning an army in modern times. For we need not say that the difficulty of subsistit is obvious that deductions made on the score of a solution of the question raised as to the commis- beyond count" [Book vii, chap, 191.]

The ancient weapons of war were few and simple. The machines used for sieges or attached to the troops were generally constructed on the spot where they were required, insomuch that this absence of being required in those times than in this age of sive multitude." iron. With these preliminary observations we approach the inquiry of our correspondent with regard to the army of Xerxes.

Herodotus, it is known, sets down the number Greece under the command of this monarch at 2,641,610. And he estimates that an equal num- other means of knowledge on the subject. ber followed in the train of this host as servauts or 5,283,220 men as the whole number of men Sepise and Thermopylee."

day when dealing with such subjects. Mr. Grote the number of the non-combatant attendants and retainers of the army of Xerxes, as calculated by Herodotus, but herein he fails to make due allowance for the peculiar custom of Eastern armies, in which, at the present day, the number of campfollowers is greater beyond comparison than that old Father of History did not err in assuming as the basis of his computation under this head that the non-combatants who waited on the movements of the army of Xerxes were at least equal in number to the fighting men. Rawlinson, in his valuable notes on the narrative of Herodotus, after subjecting the statements, of the historian under this head to a careful analysis, and reducing them according to that analysis, sets down the number of the land forces of the Persian invaders at in the expedition.

Heeren, on the other hand, in his " Historical Researches," avows the opinion that the account of Herodotus is entirely authentic and trustworthy, as well in the basis of his statements as in the number ascribed to the Persian hosts. He says that in our own day we have seen the Empire of France. under the First Napoleon, assemble nearly a million of warriors; "and we cannot, therefore, be surprised that two millions and a half should have

But, waiving critical inquiry as to exact numbers, where, at the lowest calculation, the number was so vast, how were these multitudes fed? Fortunately for the credit and credibility of Herodotus, he is not silent on this point. We learn from him that commissariat preparations had been made by Xerxes on the largest scale "for four full years" before the expedition started. This was the period he spent, says the historian, "in collecting his host and making ready all things that were needful for his soldiers. And it was not till the close of the fifth year that he set forth on his the particular requisition made upon us by our march."-[Book vii, ch. 20.] Magazines of stores military correspondent in Virginia, but shall at had then been accumulated on the line of march. "Xerxes laid up stores of provisions in divers cult problems presented by this branch of research, places," says Herodotus, "to save the army and since, if we can explain how these two leaders the beasts of burden from suffering want upon provided for the sustenance of their soldiers under their march into Greece. He in quired carefully circumstances of unequalled difficulty, resulting in about all the sites, and had the stores laid up in the case of Xerxes from the vast number of his such as were most convenient, causing them to be forces and in the case of Hannibal from the length | brought across from various parts of Asia, and in and impracticability of his march, we shall have various ways, some in transports and others in merchantmen."-[Book vii, ch. 25] We may add in its general relations to the military system of that Leuké Acte, or "The White Strand," a Greek settlement on the coast of the Propontis. And in the first place, in order to clear away at (subsidized by the Persian monarch,) was his chief

Besides these arrangements Xerxes levied contributions on the cities and countries through which he passed. "The Greeks," says Herodotus, "who soldier of modern times. Especially may this re- had to feed the army and to entertain Xerxes, were thereby brought to the very extremity of distress, insomuch that some of them were forced even to forsake house and home. When the Thasians received and feasted the host, Antipater, one of their citizens of best repute and the man to whom the business was assigned, showed vouchers that the cost of the meal was four hundred talents of silver," camp at three hundred thousand, and adds : "You [about \$500,000 in gold of our currency.] "Esare, no doubt, at a loss to conceive how so vast a timates almost to the same amount," says Herodobody of men and animals can be maintained in the tus, "were made by the superintendents (of supfield. The best solution of the difficulty will be plies) on other cities." Heralds preceded the found in the temperance and simple diet of the army to fix the amount of these requisitions, and Indians." In like manner Petit de la Croix, as the people were bidden to have stores of corn. ready ground, fattened cattle, poultry, &c. in waiting for the arrival of the army at designated points. So great were these exactions that Heromodate themselves to all kinds of food." What is dotus records as a "pleasant joke" the saying of thus affirmed of the Orientals at a later day Megacreon of Abdera, who recommended his countrymen " to go to the temples in a body and thank the gods very warmly for their past goodness in that they had caused Xerxes to be content with one meal a day," for, adds the historian, explaining the point of the joke, "had the order been to provide breakfast for the King as well as dinner the Abderites must either have fled before Xerxes came, or else have awaited his coming and been brought to absolute ruin. [Book vii, chapters 119, 120.7

In addition to depots of supplies and forced ing an army resolves itself into the difficulty of contributions Xerxes caused a vast number of finding transportation for alimentary supplies, and transports laden with grain to accompany the host that they were clearly foreseen by Hannibal is along shore. "The number of these provision craft transportation for munitions of war tend to facilitate and other merchant ships," says Herodotus, "was found in the pages of Livy and elsewhere, to the

And yet, notwithstanding all these preparations and precautions, such was the number of his forces that in point of fact they sometimes suffered from want. So true was this that Æschylus, in his drama of "The Persians," represents the very heavy ordnance stores and artillery in the case of Earth as being an ally of the Greeks, because she ancient armies suffices to account, as has been sug- refused to furnish sustenance to the hordes of the gested, for a very much less number of equipages invader-" wasting by hunger the too exces-

The sources of information in regard to the means by which Hannibal subsisted his army on its difficult march are scarcely less ample and satisfactory. Here Polybius is our best reliance, of fighting men who came out of Asia into and we shall mainly lean on his authority, without, however, debarring ourselves from access to

The first step in the great enterprise of Hannias attendants on its operations, such as the crews | bal was to consolidate the conquests made by the of supply transports and "the other crafts accom- Carthaginians on the Spanish peninsula. This, panying an army." These, he says, "will give as his natural point of departure, was made the base of supplies for his army while travelling a where the sufferings of his army were again very brought by Xerxes, the son of Darius, as far as certain distance on its overland march against great, but from which they soon found relief in the Rome. It was with this view that he for a time plunder of the rich valley of the upper Arno It has been common to affirm and to assume that delayed, and then vigorously pushed the siege of Ravaging Umbria and Applia he there made the these figures are greatly exaggerated, and it is quite Seguntum. This point he saw it was necessary war support the war in the follest sense of the probable that they are not much nearer the truth to seize, says Polybius, because in that event term, advancing by short and easy marches and than the estimates of newspapers at the present "there would be no enemy in his rear to harass accumulating "more booty by the way than his Point,

is inclined to make a considerable abatement from the city would procure in the greatest plenty such afflicted with sourcy, and his horses, enfeebled supplies as were necessary for the war." [Poly- by ulcerons humors, were here recruited in keeping his communications open with Carthage, beast in his army that at this time he ordered the and it was not until this point was well secured, horses to be bathed with old wine in order to bale of European armies. The probabilities are that the self, with all the exactness that was possible, re- Falernian plain of Campania he had taken many that lay beneath the Alps and along the Po." For and all these he carried with him to Geronium, the Gauls, while his troops were stimulated to tablished his winter quarters, while with his supefollow him in the expedition by glowing pictures rior cavalry he could forage on the surrounding of the richness of the country through which they country at will. Thence he proceeded, in the folwere destined to pass. But he did not entirely cut loose from his base at any period of his expedition, though his communications with Carthage and 1,190,000 men, and the sea force at 341,000, be- Spain were sometimes broken. When he passed ing an aggregate of 1,581,610 fighting men engaged the Iberus with ninety thousand foot and twelve thousand horse, he left Hanno behind with eleven thousand men to take care of the conquered country in his rear. Hasdrubal was the chief of his commissary department, and so skilfully did he perform the duties of the office that Hannibal was for the purpose of answering the particular inquiable to sustain himself for years in his invasion of Italy. When it was necessary his powerful cavalry enabled him to keep his communications open with the base of supplies. When supplies were not furnished by the Gauls or others, this sams cavalry were dispatched on foraging expeditions. Depo's of supplies located by the Romans at different points for the subsistence of their army of deferce were attacked and captured, as at Clastidium, for instance, (now Castiggio,) a small town on the banks of the Po. It was in these various ways that he contrived to keep his army supplied, notwithstanding the difficulties of the country through which a portion of his march was made. But these difficulties of the war told with terrible effect on his forces. When he entered Italy and first encamped at the bottom of the Alps he paused to give his troops needed rest and refreshment. The condition of his army at this stage of its progress is thus described by Polybius:

"Indeed the present condition of his army was mirera ble almost beyond expression. For besides the hardships which they had sustained from the difficulties of the wey, both in ascending and descending the mountains, the want of such provisions as were necessary, and the diseases also which their bodies had contracted from neglect and filthiness, had changed them into spectacles of horror, while the greater part seemed voluntarily to sink beneath their sufferings, and even to reject all thoughts both of life and safety. For in a march so long and difficult, it was and safety. For in a march so long and difficult, it was utterly impossible to bring with them such supplies as might fully satisfy the wants of so numerous an army; and even those which they had brought were almost all lost among the precipices, with the beasts that carried them. This army, therefore, which, when it passed the Rhone, consisted of thirty-eight thousand foot and eight thousand horse, was now reduced to less than half that number. The rest had perished among the mountains. And those that were left alive were so much worn and altered by continued sufferings that their superspace was altered by continued sufferings that their appearance was

It may be proper for us to add that the army of was expected to return this morning to the army. Hannibal made its march across the Alps without being encumbered with any baggage save supplies of food borne by beasts of burthen. The baggage was all left behind, as Polybius elsewhere states, at Cissa, in Spain, under the charge of Hanno, where it was subsequently captured by and to complete all the necessary preparations for the war."-[Book iii, ch. 7.]

We have not time to follow the march of Hannibal at each stage of his advance, in order to point out the different methods to which he resorted for subsisting his army at different places and expedition, to the point where he debouched in to Italy, was, by the route he took, about nine thousand stadia, (or more than a thousand miles,) acsording to the statement of the historian.

The vicissitudes of the march in the matter of supplies were great, as might be expected. And attested by a popular rumor, to which allusion is effect that "while deliberating on the means of supplying his forces in their long march from generals to accustom his men to feed on human flesh"-a trait of barbarism-from which, however, Polybius vindicates the name of Hannibal, if indeed such advice was ever given to him, and if the whole story was ever any thing more than a Roman fabrication by which to stimulate the passion of the times the army of the Carthaginians was in the deepest penury; at others it was in the greatest affluence of resources. Hannibal's march from the Pyrenees to the plains of Northern Italy cost him 33,000 men, of whom it is estimated that more than half fell under the privations of the way. And when, crossing the Apennines, he broke into Etruria by the valley of the Auser or Serchio, be had to struggle through the low and flouded country which lay between the right bank of the Arno and the Apennine range below Florence

or retard his march, and because the treasures of army could carry or drive along." His men, bins, book 3, ch. 2.] During this period of the their strength. So abundant were his stores of campaign he bestowed the greatest attention on corn and wine for the refreshment of man and says Polybius, that he set about "informing him- their distempers. When he descended into the specting the fertility and resources of the country thousand cattle, with corn and wine in abundance. provisioning his army in this part of its march he the point on the edge of the Apulian plain where, relied mainly on conciliating the favor and aid of at that period of his protracted campaign, he calowing spring, to Cannee, in the citadel of which the Romans had collected stores for the supply of their army. These stores fell into the hands of Hannibal on the capture of this post, by the loss of which, as it commanded the surrounding country, the Koman army was compelled to choose between starvation or battle. Hence the issue which Varro joined at that place, and which resulted in the total defeat of the Reman arms.

And here we will call a halt in our review. Ir. deed, we need not pursue the subject any farther ries of our correspondent with regard to the sub sistence of the armies of Xerxes and Hannibal. We have shown that these great masters of men had a "system" under this head, and that there is no "mystery" about it which is not revealed to the careful reader of ancient history, while it is safe to say that there has been in modern times no improvement on the science of this branch of war as understood by Hannibal, however great may be our superiority in the mechanical appliances by which that science is converted into an art. It is certain that with mules and pack-saddles for his transportation he went further in a continuous line of march than any army of ours has yet gone with the aid of steam transports and railroads.

At a future day we may institute an inquiry into the military system of the Greeks and Romans under the head of commissariat supplies for the army. The materials for such an inquiry are instructive if not the most abundant.

#### MAJOR GENERAL MEADE.

Rumors, evidently founded upon misapprehension, having obtained currency to the effect that the health of Gen. MEADE had become so much impaired as to induce his resignation of the command of the Army of the Potomac, and gone so far as to designate his successor, we are happy to be able to state, as we do on good authority, that this distinguished officer has entirely recovered from his recent indisposition, and that he has never entertained the remotest intention of retiring from a position in which, we may add, he has secured the sition in which, we may add, he has secured the sition in which, we may add, he has secured the sition in which, we may add, he has secured the sition in which, we may add, he has secured the sition in which, we may add, he has secured the sition in which, we may add, he has secured the sition in which, we may add, he has secured the sition in which, we may add, he has secured the sition in which it is a secure of this benigneral right to declare slaves to be free. If such proclamations could be issued then, why not now! The President stands as the supreme military head of the army of the Union, and the Constitution imposes upon him the responsibility of conducting war. Proclamations could be issued then, why not now! The President stands as the supreme military head of the army of the Union, and the Constitution imposes upon him the responsibility of conducting war. Proclamations could be issued then, why not now! The President stands as the supreme military head of the army of the Union, and the Constitution imposes upon him the responsibility of conducting war. Proclamations are suprementally and the constitution in the con confidence of the country and army, and where he has earned such high military reputation. The recent visits of Gcn. Meade to this city, as we understand, have been for the purpose of consultarearrely human. The first care, therefore, to which Antion and to give tes imony before the Committee on nibal now gave his whole attention was to raise the droop-ing spirits of the troops, and by proper refreshment to iccontemplated separation from his command. He

## THE GOLD BILL.

The bill which has passed the House of Representatives for the sale of the surplus gold in the Treasury of the United States is still pending in the Senste. In speaking upon this subject yesterday Mr. SHERMAN stated that the amount of gold now in the Treasury amounts to Comeus Cornelius, with an expeditionary force \$19,670,479, and that at the average rate of receipts this landed by the Roman fleet near Emporium, and sum will be increased on the 1st of July next to the sum which penetrated inland to this place. Hasdru- of \$41,942,654, from which there must be deducted, for bal, when informed of this transaction, made haste the ordinary disbursements to be made in gold, the sum to cross the Iberus and drove the Romans back to date semething like \$21,000,000. In addition to the quoted in the debate. their ships; after which he recrossed the Iberus \$21,000,000 in the vaults of the Treasury Department, and fixed his winter quarters at New Carthage, there is retained in the New York banks as a reserve ful d where, says Polybius, "he employed all his care to \$21,188,034, making an aggregate of over \$40,000,000 in adjourned. secure the posts that were on that side of the river, gold practically withdrawn from the ordinary avenue of trade. The object which Mr. SHERMAN seeks to accomplish is to throw on the market this \$20,000,000 owned by Government, and to that extent relieve the pressure upon it. If his amendment prevails, Mr. SHERMAN thinks that the present large margin b tween the value of gold and paper currency would be reduced, and speculation be somewhat stayed. The Senator recognises the extraordiepochs, though the sources of information are Treasury by his proposed legislation, but says that in times ample in the pages of Polybius and Livy, particu- of war extraordinary powers must be conferred, and that larly the former. The length of his march from there is no help for it other than the restrictions that ad-New Carthage, in Spain, where he started on his ditional legislation would impose. The bill will come up sgain to-day for further consideration.

## THE REVOLUTIONARY PENSIONERS.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce thus appropriately notices a proceeding in the House of Representatives which was recorded in the Intelligencer of Monday last :

"For one of the handsomest things done in the House of Representatives during the session we are indebted to Mr. Law, of Indiana. He submitted a resolution, and supported it by an eloquent five minutes' speech, expressthanks of Congress for the services of twelve patriots of the Revolution, who were all mentioned by name, and who are the only remaining pensioners on the Department rolls. The resolution was passed by a unanimous vote, and the whole iden was in perfect keeping Spain into Italy, he was advised by one of his with one of the most dignified, able, and purely patriotic members of the present Congress, and whose well as his grandisther, both on the paternal and maternal side, were honorably connected with our National Legislature in the earlier and happier days of the Repub-The youngest of the patriots alluded to by the reninety-fourth year, while the oldest is one hundred and five years old

Yesterday, in the House, Mr. Law, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, reported a bill to give to each Roman people against their formidable enemy. At of the remaining Revolutionary pensioners-twelve in number-a hundred dollars in addition to their present pensions. The bill was upanimously passed.

## MOVEMENTS OF GEN. GRANT.

Gen. Grant returned to this city yesterday morning from the beadquarters of Gen. Meade, and departed hence in the evening on his return to the West-happy, we suppose, to recape from the official and popular civilities which have been constantly pressed upon him during his brief

THE MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT. The appropriations for the support of the West Point | the Treasury was not committed to the passage of this cademy were voted by the Senate yesterday Coupled with the resolution appropriating the money is an amendment which authorizes the President to fill vacancies occaand to apportion those appointed, as near as may be, acorious young men in the regular or volunteer armies of

#### CONGRESSIONAL.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE

Extracts from Our Daily Reports. THE MISSISSIPPI AND THE NORTHERN LAKES. Mr. ARNOLD, from the Committee on Roads and

Canals, reported a bill for the construction of a ship canal for armed vessels from the Mississippi river to the Northern lakes, and for other purposes.

This bill proposes to provide that so soon as the State of Illinois shall transfer and vest in the United States all her right to the head of the Illinois and Michigan canal, the approximent shall be commenced and prosecuted with such dispatch as the nature of the work and the funds apropristed by Congress will permit The revenue, over and above the expenses of the management and for re-pairs, shall be paid into the Treasury of the United States. The Government is required, as soon as Illinois shall transfer said canal, to issue thirteen million three hundred and forty seven thousand dollars in bonds, redeemable twenty years from date, bearing interest at the rate of six

be free to all vessels on the payment of talls.

Mr. ROLMAN relect the question that, as the bill made an appropriation of money, it must, therefore, receive its first consideration in Committee of the Whole. The Speaker sustained this point; and the bill was de

amended bill, nearly identical, but with such modifications as would enable the House to act upon it without reference to the Committee of the Whole.

The ull was read a first time, when objection was made

to its second reading.

The question therefore occurred: Shall the bill be re-Jected 1
Mr ARNOLD asked that it be postponed to a fixed day,

in order that it might receive fair and full consideration. The Government was not asked to give money, but to lend its credit. The receipts would keep pace with the expenditures in the prescution of the work.

Mr. NORTON said he regarded this as one of the most

important measures which could be brought before Con-gress, and asked free play, an open field, and a fair fight upon its merits.

Mr. STEVENS said he should vote for the rejection of the bill, on account of the irregular way it Was brought

HUBBARD, of Connecticut, JAMES C. ALLEN, and On motion of Mr. ARNOLD, the further consideration of the bill was postponed till Monday week, to be taken up after the expiration of the morning hour.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE. The House, immediately on assembling, went into Com-nitee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. DAWES, of Massechusetts, in the chair,) and took up the

President's social message.

Mr. HOLMAN, of Indiana, occupied his hour in com menting upon the President's plan for the reconstruction of States new in rebellion, contending that it is the duty of the President to execute, and not to make, the laws He characterized the plan as a novel innovation on the

fundamental principles of government, tending to the utter subversion of public liberty.

Mr. HULBURD, of New York, in the course of his rgument, said the institution of seavery is a source of athern strength and a means of prolonging the war. right to remove it. We should swite the great cause which has brought upon us our present troubles. Washington and others of the Revolution did not question the exercise of this beligerent right to declare slaves to be wisdom of Abraham Lincoln and the providence of G.d. all the states of this country will become free The force and effect of the proclamation cannot be reversed The he decree has passed beyond the control of war, and will Mr. DUMONT, of Indiana, after a few preliminary re-

parks, spoke of gentlemen who complained that the ori same gentleman yielded a vigorous support to the Govern-ment to put down rebellion. He scouted the idea of ne-gotiations with the rebels, who would be satisfied with nothing short of independence. This would be an insult to the living as well as the dead; and if a man from a Loyal State should give to such a negotiation his sanction. he would have occasion to curse the day of his birth, and call on the mountains to hide him from deserved infamy.

Mr. BLISS, of Ohio, spoke of the Democratic party as having strictly adhered to the letter and spirit of the Constitution, and attributed our troubles to the the present incumbent of the Presidential chair, whose he charged, sought to abridge the constitutions rights of the South. He opposed the President's plan of

reconstruction.

Mr. COX, of Ohio, in reply to some remarks of a peronal nature, explained what he meant by a passage in his book entitled "The Buckeye Abroad," which had been

Mr. GRINNELL, of Iowa, made some remarks also a personal nature, in reply to Mr Cox The committee rose at five o'clock and the House THE GOVERNMENT GOLD.

On motion of Mr. STEVENS, the House proceeded to the consideration of the gold bill, as returned from the

Mr. KERNAN was opposed to the Government using its coin for the purpose of shaving its own paper at a heavy

discount. He congratulated the country and the Hou that the proposition to seil gold was not recommended by the President or any head of departments. The bill did not come before them recommended by the Committee of nary powers that would be conferred on the Secretary of the Ways and Means, for they had reported against it. The law of 1862 pledged the coin it was now proposed to sel for the psyment of interest on the public debt, and one per cent. to the sinking fund. This was a wise provision ment but the fact that we have pledged the coin for this To disprese of the gold as now proposed was a step toward repudiation, and could never receive his vote. The House should stand firm by its original bill, merely authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to autic pate the payment of the interest on the public debt.

Mr PRUYN said that the House, a few days ago, by a determined vote, adopted a resolution authorizing the Sec retary of the Treasury to anticipate the interest on the public debt, but the Senate, is appeared, amended it, so as to authorize the Secretary to sell the surplus gold. Nothing had occurred since the action of the House to induce them to change its ground. He believed that there was a limit to public credit, and the only result of such a measure as that now pending must be mischief. We ought

not go into market to shave our own paper.

Mr. COX opposed the bill. He dd not believe the price of gold could be affected by legislation-at least, not permanently. You might as well legislate on gravitation hydro tatics as on laws of trade. The guards to prevent speculation were brushed away by the was opposed to entrusting the Secretary with the power to sell gold, and to give him absolute power to control the interests of thirty millions of people. He hoped the House would adhere, and not yield to the clamors of gold specuators and jobbers.

Mr. ALLEY said he should support the bill because h

believed it was for the interest of the Government, of the country, and of the people. It might not do all the good an icipated, but it would be the instrument in effecting semething to the way of checking speculation, and might reduce gold ten or fifteen per cen: exercised power more wisely and prudently than the Sec retary of the Treasury. If he had not full confidence the integrity of the Secretary he would have some doub as to the propriety of this messure. But, having confidence in him, and believing that in his hands the power would be productive of good a d not evil, he was in favor of conferring it. In the course of his remarks he spoke of the importance of additional taxation to preserve the con-

fidence of the people in the public credit.

Mr. HULBURD was opposed to the bill, believing that its effect would be to raise the price of gold; and, besides, we should not deviate from the object for which the coin

has been appropriated by the law of 1862.

Mr. BOUTWELL said that thus far the Scere'ary of measure. He was not opposed to granting the Secretary of the Treasury power to sell gold because he was not willing to trust him, but because they had no power to grant the authority. And even if he was satisfied they coned by the non-representation of districts in Congress, and the right, it would be unwise in the highest degree to exe cise it. He then proceeded to consider the question ording to the population of the respective States. Meri- of finance, as adopted to a state of war, contending the be shi u'd act as would a prudent merchant, who, if he the United States are also eligible to appointments to West market and invest it in stocks, but would anticipate the payment of his notes, and thus establish his credit. So it 'aylvania, in place of Goo. Coffey, deceased.

should be with the Government, and he acted on that prin should be with the Government, and he acted on that principle when he introduced the proposition which the House passed, and which now came back from the Senate with amendments. He was opposed to the Government going into the business of speculation.

Mr. HOOPER differed from the views which had been expressed by gentlemen. The bill now before them authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to sell any surplus coin over and shore what is required to pay the interest.

coin over and above what is required to pay the interest on the public d bt and for other purposes. Since he last addressed the House, he had made a more careful examination of the affairs of the Treasury. There was now on hand twenty two millions of coin, and, assuming the present basis of calculation, there will be in the Treasury forty-five millions of gold on the first day of July next; and, after paying the sums required of it, there will be an excees of twenty millions. So all obliga ious can be met and this amount disposed of as the bill proposes. He urged at some length the concurrence of the House in the

Mr. STEVE'S moved that the House adjourn, saying that if it now did so, this subject would come up as un-

finished business to morrow.

The House, at half-past four o'clock, adjourned. The House resumed the consideration of the gold bill as it had been returned from the Senate, with an amend ment authorizing the S-cretary of the Treasury to sail the surplus gold of the Government. The pending question

was on agreeing to this amendment

Mr. GRISWOLD said that having been brought in contact with business men, not gold speculators, in New York, they generally concurred in the hope that the Secretary of the Treasury would be authorized to sell the surplus gold. The only question was as to the means by which the coin was to be taken out of the Treasury. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. BOUTWELL) yesterday said the Secretary had not recommended this measure. But he (Mr. GRISWOLD) believed the Secretary had sout letter to the Committee of Ways and Means asking for

the authority to sell

Mr. BOUTWELL here caused to be read a letter addressed to him by Secretary Chase, in which the Secretary says he was informed this morning that Mr. BOUTWELL, was under the impression that he was indifferent to the gold bill as amended by the Secate. His views were expressed to the Committee of Ways and Means, on the 19 h ultimo, in favor of giving him authority to sell surplus gold. He thought at that time, as he did now, that such authority would tend to restrain speculation, and pre-vent sudden fluctuations in the gold market. The use of such power might contribute to this desirable end. His

opinions remain unchanged.

Mr. GRISWOLD resumed his remarks, saying that, having confidence in the patrictism and integrity of the Secretary of the Treasury, he would clothe him with the power desired The present price of gold is merely specu-lative. We have almost as much to fear from the army of peculators in gold as from the army of rebels.

Mr. HUBBARD, in answering the objections of gentle-nen who had opposed the bill, said the Secretary could not endanger the credit of the country any more by the power proposed to be conferred by this measure than by the power with which he was now invested. He could not borrow from England or France if they would send over their money. The only way to maintain the credit of the nation was by relying, with boldness and firmness, on our own resources. If more money was wanted, we must continue to tax ourselves still more, and the people would continue to pay.

Mr. BROOMALL remarked that he had voted steadily

egainst this measure from the beginning, and he would tesdily vote against it to the end. The power proposed o be given was wholly unnecessary. The only parties who need the gold are the importing merchante. Looking upon excessive importations as one of the evils of the day, he was willing to let gold remain up till importations con down. This would relieve the pressure. If there is a surplus of gold in the Treasury, let the Secretary seek out and pay honest creditors. The bill would be wholly ineffectual to fix the piec of gold. The Secretary of the Treasury was the best man that could be put in the illes sale of gold, the speculators, gaining knowledge of the time this would take place through an agent, would been abled to profit at the expense of the Government. To pass this bill would be a disgrace; it was repudiation.

Mr MORRIS did not profess to understand every thing

elating to the finances, and therefore he deferred to to judgment of those who have full knowledge of the subject. The Secretary of the Treasury has a reputation for skill, astuteness, patriotism, and ability for conducting the finan cial effairs of the country; and, therefore, he was obliged to respect the rec uest of that officer that sell the surplus gold be conferred.

Mr. DENNISON said we should not make a profit out

of our broken promises. The money proposed to be sold was appropriated by law to our creditors, and therefore we should not violate the plighted faith of the Government. It was proposed to turn the Treasury into a broker's shop, with the sign, "Uncurrent funds are bought and sold in this Department. 1. He protested against such a prostitution of power, and regretted that our Government should be reduced to this disgrace. Mr. WOODBRIDGE gave the reasons why he sup-

ported the bill, which, he believed, if prased, would de-preciate the price of gold five or ten per cent The Comnttee of Ways and Means should bring in a bill so taxing Grant, who is now the most prominent the country, be sent for to lead the well military man disciplined A my of the Potomac against General Lee. A combination of vist ry with the depreciation of the price of gold, and the means of carrying on the war by taxing property of the country, would have the effect of re ducing gold to forty or forty two cents, the highest price it should bear in war

Mr. GARFIELD said the sinking of the funded debt

ed the anticipation of the payment o The only way left was to stop trading and bartering in While the Secretary main ains inviolate the cre of the Government, he should be permitted to take the residue of the gold and hold it over the heads of the gold speculators, and keep them back from presumptuous sins, that they may not bear rule over us. We ought to give the Secretary power to protect us from the bulls and bears

Mr. DAVIS said speculation was merely gambling in paper for the price of gold. We are unporting a hundre one a year, which has to be paid to foreign countries in gold which, by law, we have declared sacretly reserved the payment of the public debt. The House was endeavering to do what could not be done by legislation.

Mr. PRICE maintained that the assurance that the interest on the public debt would be paid in coin gave the bonds more value than when they were first issued. Remove this foundation and the superstructure of our credit The money ought to be retained to meet the obligatiods for which the public faith is pledged.

Mr. JAS C ALLEN opposed the bill; regarding it as

scheme concected somewhere to speculate on the Governmen 's cold. For the Government to go into the market and buy up its own promises would be dishonorable to the Government and to those who administer its af-

Mr. HUBBARD offered an amendment-namely, pro vided "that the obligation to create a sunking fund by the act passed February 25th, 1862, shall not be impaired

Mr. STEVENS, of Pennsylvania, expressed the hope that the vote on the bill would be taken early to-[This bill was passed yesterday as amended by the Senate.]

REVOLUTIONARY PENSIONERS

Mr. LAW, of Indiana, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, reported a bill giving to each of the revolutionary pensioners a hundred dollars a year, to comnence from the first of January, 1864, and to continue during their natural lives, in addition to the phusions to which they are entitled under former acts of Congress. Mr. FARNSWORTH desired to know how many such

por sioners there now are.

Mr. LAW replied that only twelve remained, and that the youngest of them was mucty-two, and the oldest one hundred and five; and it was not probable that the penthe youngest of sions would continue more than two years.

Mr STEVENS inquired whither the pensions would

continue to the willows of the pensioners !

Mr. LAW replied that they would not be continued.

Mr HARRINGTON, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury reached Washington some days ago from his visit to Eu rope, and entered at once on the renewed discharge of his official duties. During the greater part of his sojourn in Europe, whither he went last fall on a brief leave of absence in hope of recruiting his bealth, which had become seriously impaired by the wearing usture of his important duties, he was, we learn, quite ill, but during the last mouth of his stay in France, under the trea ment of an eminent physician, he recovered sufficiently to hazard a winter voyage and a return to his home and to his official

The Han. Chas, GILPIN has been appointed United States District Attorney for the Eastern District of Pena-